THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation has made oil and gas discoveries in Cambay Basin in the State of Gujarat and Krishna-Godavari Offshore basin in the Bay of Bengal. The details of the blocks are as under:

(i) CB-ON/2 Block in Kheda and Anand districts (Cambay Basin in Gujarat)

(ii) CB-ONN-2000/1 Block in Ahmedabad district (Cambay Basin in Gujarat)

(iii) KG-OSN-2001/3 Offshore Block (Krishna-Godavari basin in Bay of Bengal)

Supply of Kerosene to Coastal states

2680. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken to limit supply of kerosene through PDS to BPL card holders only;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such restrictions would pose difficulties for large sections of ordinary fishermen in the coastal regions;

(d) if so, whether Government would consider special provisions pertaining to the coastal States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) In order to formulate a long-term pricing policy, the Government had constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister to examine different aspects of pricing and taxation of petroleum products with a view to stabilizing/rationalizing their prices, keeping in view the financial position of the oil companies, the investment needed in the sector, the need to conserve petroleum products, and establishing a transparent mechanism

for the autonomous adjustment of prices by the oil companies. The Committee submitted its report on 17.2.2006.

The Government has accepted the recommendations of Dr. Rangarajan Committee Report and has decided 'in principle' that subsidized PDS kerosene be limited to BPL families only. The modalities to implement this decision have not been worked out yet.

(c) to (e) The Government of India allocates Kerosene to the States/ Union Territories (UTs) under the Public Distribution System (PDS) for the purpose of cooking and illumination only. With a view to assessing the genuine demand requirement of kerosene in different State/UTs, the Government commissioned a study in December, 2004 on the subject through the National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER). NCAER submitted its report in October, 2005. In its report, NCAER has noted that PDS kerosene is supplied for fishing in some coastal States and has *inter alia* recommended that the kerosene requirement for fishing may be supplied at non-PDS price. The recommendations of the NCAER have been brought to the notice of State Governments.

In addition to the PDS Kerosene, oil companies sell free sale Kerosene at market price as per the requirement. The fishermen may like to procure their requirements at market price.

Share of ONGC in gas from Sakhalin field

†2681. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of oil and gas has already begun long time back in Sakhalin-I region in Russia in which ONGC Videsh has 20 per cent stake;

(b) whether it is also a fact that ONGC Videsh is trying to bring the natural gas of its share to India from Sakhalin-I region;

(c) whether it is also a fact that no plan has been formulated as yet to extract the estimated gas reserve of about 485 cubic metres in Sakhalin-I region; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and to what extent India's self dependence will increase by getting the gas of its share from Sakhalin-I?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.